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**Committee for Programme and Coordination**
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Agenda item 3 (b)
**Programme questions: proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011**

# Proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011

## Review of part two: biennial programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies

## Note by the Secretariat

1. At its twenty-fifth session, held from 26 to 29 May 2008, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) considered the proposed biennial programme plan for programme 18, Economic and social development in Western Asia (A/63/6 (Prog. 18)), taking into account the modifications proposed by the Committee on Transport as well as the comments submitted by 6 of the 13 member countries.

2. In his letter dated 29 May 2008 addressed to the Chairperson of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the Chairperson of ESCWA and Deputy Prime Minister, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, of Yemen transmitted the decision of the Commission on the proposed biennial programme for consideration by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-eighth session.

3. Accordingly, the Secretariat is providing herewith the modifications proposed by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (see annex).

# Annex

## Proposed revisions to the proposed biennial programme plan of programme 18, Economic and social development in Western Asia, as proposed by Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia at its twenty-fifth session

1. The following modifications are proposed to be incorporated in programme 18, Economic and social development in Western Asia (A/63/6 (Prog. 18)):

**Overall orientation**

***Paragraph 18.4***

The first three sentences should be deleted and replaced with the following:

"18.4 The region has made varied progress in social development, especially in the education and health sectors. Some countries have developed mechanisms to invest surplus capital savings resulting from high energy prices, which have contributed to the acceleration of economic growth and social development. Political instability and lack of adequate reform continue to influence economic performance in the countries of the region."

***Paragraph 18.5***

The last sentence should read:

"While emphasizing that developed countries should fulfil their commitment to supporting developing countries, including Arab countries, in meeting climate change challenges, the declaration affirms the commitment of the Ministers, inter alia, to include policies to deal with climate change issues in all sectors within national and regional policies for sustainable development in a manner that harmonizes with sustained economic growth and efforts to eradicate poverty, and to adopt national and regional action plans dealing with climate change."

**Subprogramme 1**
**Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development**

**Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat**

In expected accomplishment (b), before the words "environmentally sound technology", insert the words "appropriate and affordable".

**Indicators of achievement**

In indicator of achievement (b) (i), before the word "institutions", insert the words "new and/or existing".

In indicator of achievement (b) (ii), before the words "environmentally sound technology", insert the words "appropriate and affordable".

**Strategy**

***Paragraph 18.14***

At the end of subparagraph (a), insert the words ", especially disadvantaged groups".

***Paragraph 18.15***

Before the words "environmentally sound technologies", insert the words "appropriate and affordable".

***Paragraph 18.16***

After the words "the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Office for West Asia", insert the words "the secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification, the secretariat of the Convention on Climate Change," and before the words "secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity" delete the words "United Nations".

**Subprogramme 2**
**Integrated social policies**

**Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat**

In expected accomplishment (b), before the words "the youth bulge, migration and good urban governance", insert the words "demographic changes, with particular emphasis on".

In expected accomplishment (c), after the words "Enhanced participation of civil society", insert the words "in social policy dialogue and".

**Indicators of achievement**

In indicator of achievement (b) (ii), before the words "the youth bulge and migration", insert the words "demographic changes, with particular emphasis on".

**Strategy**

***Paragraph 18.19***

At the end of the last sentence, insert the following:

", while recognizing the role of social safety nets in maintaining social and political stability."

***Paragraph 18.20***

At the end of the first sentence, insert the words: ", including the finding of mechanisms to finance social development."

**Subprogramme 3**
**Economic development and integration**

**Indicators of achievement**

In indicator of achievement (a) (i), replace the word "number" with the word "percentage".

In indicator of achievement (d) (ii), replace the phrase "based on ESCWA recommendations" with the phrase "with ESCWA assistance upon the request of member countries".

**Strategy**

***Paragraph 18.23***

At the end of subparagraph (a), insert the words ", including, but not limited to, diversification of production and knowledge-based economies;".

***Paragraph 18.25***

In the first sentence, replace the words "road, rail, maritime and multimodal transport agreements" with the words "road, rail and maritime agreements".

After the first sentence, insert the following as the second sentence:

"The subprogramme will work closely with the League of Arab States for the development and implementation of a regional multimodal transport agreement for the Arab region in anticipation of the finalization of the draft convention on contracts for the international carriage of goods wholly or partly by sea (United Nations Commission on International Trade Law draft convention)."

***Paragraph 18.26***

In the first sentence, replace the words "through South-South cooperation" with the words "in line with regional economic agreements such as the Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA), with special emphasis on South-South cooperation".

***Paragraph 18.27***

In the last sentence, after the words "governmental and non-governmental bodies", insert the words ", including GCC and the League of Arab States,".

**Subprogramme 4**
**Information and communications technology for regional integration**

**Strategy**

***Paragraph 18.28***

Replace the last sentence with the following:

"With continued monitoring of activities pertaining to the World Summit on the Information Society Geneva Plan of Action and Tunis Agenda for the Information Society and the efforts made to implement the ESCWA Regional Plan of Action for Building the Information Society, in harmonization with the

Arab ICT strategy of the League of Arab States, the subprogramme will strive to adapt the Summit outcomes to better serve the region and fine-tune plans of action in order to build an inclusive, people-centred information society that is based on productive national ICT sectors."

***Paragraph 18.30***

In the first sentence, after the words "national capacity", insert the words ", with special focus on human resources development,".

***Paragraph 18.32***

At the end of the first sentence, replace the phrase "fund-raising efforts aimed at harnessing ICT for socio-economic development" with the phrase, "efforts aimed at harnessing science and technology, particularly ICT, for socio-economic development".

**Subprogramme 5**
**Statistics for evidence-based policymaking**

**Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat**

In expected accomplishment (a), replace the words "where statistics are not fully developed" with the words "that are less statistically developed".

In expected accomplishment (b), before the words "gender-disaggregated data", insert the words "Millennium Development Goal indicators and".

**Indicators of achievement**

In indicator of achievement (a) (i), replace the words "where statistics are not fully developed" with the words "that are less statistically developed".

In indicator of achievement (b) (ii), after the words "national statistical offices", insert the words "with ESCWA assistance".

Add a new indicator of achievement as follows:

"(b) (iii) Increased percentage of statistical experts who applied the knowledge and skills gained through ESCWA training at the national level".

**Strategy**

***Paragraph 18.33***

At the end of the last sentence, replace the words "the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements" with the words "the Istanbul Declaration on measuring the progress of societies".

***Paragraph 18.34***

In item (b), the words "produce and disseminate" should read "produce, analyse and disseminate".

***Paragraph 18.35***

In the second sentence of subparagraph (c), replace the words "where statistics are not fully developed" with the words "that are less statistically developed".

***Paragraph 18.36***

Replace the first sentence with the following:

"In the second area, the subprogramme will continue upgrading the knowledge and skills of the national statistical offices in increasing the availability, frequency and timeliness of core socio-economic statistics and in adopting new and revised economic and social international classifications and standards. The subprogramme will contribute to the production of accurate, relevant and timely trade in goods and services statistics and sectoral statistics, and the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts and its revision, with a special focus on the informal sector and the system of quarterly national accounts."

At the end of the last sentence, insert the phrase "and the identification of regional approaches to measure societal progress that complement the traditional Millennium Development Goal monitoring framework".

**Subprogramme 6**
**Advancement of women**

**Indicators of achievement**

Replace indicator (b) (i) with the following: "Increased number of voluntary measures taken by member countries, with ESCWA assistance provided in response to their request, to review and adjust laws in conformity with the Convention".

**Strategy**

***Paragraph 18.41***

Replace the last sentence with the following: "In response to the expressed needs of member countries, the subprogramme will aim to enhance the capacity of those stakeholders to address critical issues and take concrete measures in that regard."

***Paragraph 18.42***

In the last sentence, after the words "Arab Women Organization" delete the words "of Jordan".

**Subprogramme 7**
**Conflict mitigation and development**

**Strategy**

***Paragraph 18.43***

The paragraph should be deleted and replaced with the following:

"18.43 The responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the Section for Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues. Ongoing conflicts or political tensions in Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine and Yemen involving the competing interests of regional and international dynamics have profoundly affected stability as well as reversed development in a number of member countries. Those challenges are coupled with the slow development of democratic public institutions and the application of human rights and civic standards. That situation continues to create a host of social, economic and political challenges, including growing ethnic-sectarian tensions, the continuous influx of displaced persons and the rise of non-State actors in a number of member countries. The combination of those factors is likely to negatively affect the future of the region's youth and to pose serious impediments to civic and public actors in addressing challenges in the spheres of good governance and the environment, including the dangers posed by the scarcity of water and global warming."

***Paragraph 18.44***

In item (b), replace the words "civic values" with the words "values of citizenship".

***Paragraph 18.45***

In the second sentence, after the words "unleashed by conflict", insert the word ", occupation".

In the penultimate sentence, replace the words "conflict areas" with the words "conflict and occupation".

***Paragraph 18.46***

The first sentence should read:

"18.46 In the second area, the subprogramme will explore the application of principles of good governance, based on the internationally agreed-upon human rights principles, including values of citizenship, while taking due consideration of the region's historical and cultural specificities."

In the second sentence, replace the words "civic values" with the words "values of citizenship".